

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

10/535415

Applicant's or agent's file reference BR-F03016-00	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/JP2003/014833	International filing date (day/month/year) 20 November 2003 (20.11.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 20 November 2002 (20.11.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B62D 55/253, E02F9/02		
Applicant BRIDGESTONE CORPORATION		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a. (*sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau*) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:

sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b. (*sent to the International Bureau only*) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 17 June 2004 (17.06.2004)	Date of completion of this report 26 August 2004 (26.08.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/014833

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of:

international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

The international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:

pages _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____

the claims, Nos. _____

the drawings, sheets/figs _____

the sequence listing (specify): _____

any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____

the claims, Nos. _____

the drawings, sheets/figs _____

the sequence listing (specify): _____

any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International Application No.

PCT/JP03/14833

Box No. V **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-31	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-31	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-31	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: EP, 1013542, A1 (Tweco), 28 June, 2000 (28.06.00), full text & JP, 2000-190881, A

Document 2: JP, 7-61383, A (Bridgestone Corp.), 7 March, 1995 (07.03.95), full text (Family: none)

In the ISR, this document is erroneously indicated as "JP, 7-61383, A." It should read "JP, 7-61382, A (Bridgestone Corp.), 7 March, 1995 (07.03.95), full text (Family: none)" (hereinafter referred to as "document 4".)

Document 3: JP, 2000-313371 (Fukuyama Gomu Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha), 14 November, 2000 (14.11.00), full text (Family: none)

Claim 1

The feature "two connection members are fitted longitudinally and connected sequentially respectively on adjacent wing portions on the left and right sides of core metals" of the subject matter of claim 1 is neither disclosed nor suggested in any of documents 1-3 and document 4 and does not appear to be obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Claims 2-19

As all the subject matters of claims 2-19 are defined by referring to claim 1, they appear to involve an inventive step.

Claim 20

The feature "the core metals are connected by forming fit-in holes at the ends of wing portions and fitting folded ends of second connection members, which are U-shaped in section, into the holes at the end of adjacent wing portions of core metals" of the subject matter of claim 20 is neither disclosed nor suggested in any of documents 1-3 and document 4 and does not appear to be obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Claims 21-26

As all the subject matters of claims 21-26 are defined by referring to claim 20, they appear to involve an inventive step.

Claim 27

The feature, "a rubber track of which adjacent wing portions on the left and right sides of core metals comprise connection members fitted longitudinally and connected sequentially, wherein each of the wing portions is divided into front and rear parts, and the divided wing portions are made to be substantially circular in section to serve as positions into which the connection members are fitted" of the subject matter of claim 27 is neither disclosed nor suggested in any of documents 1-3 and document 4 and does not appear to be obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Claims 28-31

As all the subject matters of claims 28-31 are defined by referring to claim 27, they appear to involve an inventive step.